

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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NSF-01 PM-04 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2952

INFO US MISSION GENEVA 1664

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMECONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPACREP/TTPI GUAM

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12206

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SENV JA

SUBJ: IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT STORMFURY

REF: A. STATE 188235

B. TAIPEI 5222

C. TOKYO 11397

D. STATE 203163

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF ADDITIONAL DEPT GUIDANCE REFTEL D,
EMBOFF PROCEEDED WITH APPROACH TO GOJ AS OUTLINED REFTEL C.
MEETING HELD WITH JAPAN METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY (JMA) OFFICIALS
ON 8/27. FOL OFFICIALS PRESENT: DR. KEITARO MOHRI, DIRECTOR-
GENERAL; ITSURO SHIMIZU, HEAD, PLANNING DIVISION; DR. MASAMORI
MIYAZAKI, CHIEF, TYPHOON RESEARCH LAB, METEOROLOGICAL RESEARCH
INSTITUTE; E. KAKIZAKI, MANAGER, FORECASTING DEPT.: MITSUO
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IWASAKI, CHIEF, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION UNIT, PLANNING DIV.

2. AFTER THREE HOURS OF INTENSIVE DISCUSSION, IN WHICH EMBOFF LAID OUT PLAN FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF WMO/IPAB (REFTAL A), EXPLAINED IT CAREFULLY, STRESSED THAT USG EXPERTS PREPARED TO VISIT JAPAN OR RECEIVE JAPANESE EXPERTS IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS ISSUES BILATERALLY, AND POINTED OUT THAT DECISION ON GOJ PART WAS URGENTLY NEEDED IN VIEW OF SHORT TIME REMAINING BEFORE NOVEMBER WMO MEETING. ONLY COMMITMENT THAT COULD BE OBTAINED FROM MOHRI WAS THAT HE HAD TO OBTAIN VIEWS OF OTHER JMA STAFF MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE BEFORE HE COULD ADVISE EMBASSY ON PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESSFUL SUBSEQUENT APPROACH BY EMBASSY TO FOREIGN OFFICE.

3. DURING COURSE OF MEETING IT WAS MADE CLEAR TO JMA OFFICIALS THAT GOJ AGREEMENT TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON STORMFURY IPAB WOULD HAVE TO COME OFFICIALLY FROM FOREIGN OFFICE, BUT THAT SUPPORT BY JMA OF CONCEPT INVOLVED WAS SOUGHT INFORMALLY IN ADVANCE OF EMBASSY'S INITIATION OF DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN OFFICE. JMA, IN TURN, AGREED THAT MATTER WOULD BE KEPT WITHIN JMA UNTIL DECISION REACHED WITH EMBASSY THAT IF WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO APPROACH GOJ OFFICIALLY.

4. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING MEETING JMA REPS SHOWED THEIR DEEP RESERVATIONS ABOUT STORMFURY EXPERIMENTS AND ULTIMATE APPLICATION TO TYPHOON ABATEMENT BY REITERATING FOLLOWING POINTS PROBABLY WELL KNOWN TO DEPT. AND NOAA EXPERTS:

A. JAM BELIEVES MUCH MORE WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE ON MATHEMATICAL MODELING OF TYPHOONS AND ON MEANS OF PREDICTION OF TYPHOON COURSE, TO THE POINT WHERE IT COULD BE VIRTUALLY GUARANTEED THAT A SEEDED TYPHOON WOULD NOT STRIKE JAPAN ISLANDS, BEFORE PACIFIC EXPERIMENTS BEGIN.

B. ALTHOUGH JAPANESE PEOPLE ARE PREPARED FATALISTICALLY TO ACCEPT "NATURAL" DISASTER DONE BY UNSEEDED TYPHOONS, THEY ARE UNPREPARED TO ACCEPT AN "ARTIFICIAL" DISASTER (I.E., CAUSED BY A SEEDED TYPHOON), SINCE THEY WOULD CONCLUDE THAT SEEDING HAD CAUSED CHANGE IN NATURAL COURSE OF TYPHOON AND THAT IT MIGHT HAVE MISSED JAPAN IF SEEDING HAD NOT BEEN PERFORMED.

5. EMBOFF TRIED TO COUNTER ABOVE POINTS BY STATING THAT
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PURPOSE OF MONITORING SELECTED TYPHOONS, BOTH SEEDED AND NON-SEEDED, IN PACIFIC WAS TO OBTAIN EXPERIMENTAL DATA TO NORMALIZE AND IMPROVE EXISTING MODELS AND PREDICTIVE TECHNIQUES, AND THAT JAPANESE SCIENTISTS HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY NOAA TO JOIN IN THIS EFFORT. ONLY PERCEPTIBLE REACTION WAS THAT MOHRI AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR USG AND GOJ SCIENTISTS TO MEET FOR PURPOSE OF REVIEWING STATUS OF MODELING WORK IN BOTH COUNTRIES AND THAT PERHAPS THIS COULD BE DONE AT SAME TIME AS

DISCUSSIONS ON IPAB IF GOJ SHOULD AGREE TO HLD LATTER MEETING.

6. DURING LAST PART OF MEETING, KAKIZAKI RAISED SOMEWHAT OVERBLOWN ISSUES OF (A) CLAIMS BY MEXICAN SCIENTISTS THAT SEEDING EXPERIMENTS BY U.S. HAD CAUSED HURRICANE TO HIT HONDURAS, AND (B) OF HIS OWN CONCERN THAT EVEN SMALL-SCALE SEEDING OF TROPICAL STORM IN EASTERN PACIFIC AS PART OF INITIAL PHASE OF STORMFURY PACIFIC OPERATION COULD LEAD TO DETECTION OF AIRBORNE SILVER IODINE OVER JAPAN. IF PRESENCE OF SILVER IODINE OVER JAPAN WERE TO BE ASSOCIATED IN TIME WITH ABNORMALLY HEAVY RAINFALL, THEN STORMFURY WOULD BE BLAMED FOR HAVING CAUSED RAINFALL.

7. FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF MEETING, EMBASSY INTERPRETER TOLD EMBOFF THAT JMA OFFICIALS HAD MENTIONED IN THEIR PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS HELD IN JAPANESE THAT USG APPROACH COULDN'T HAVE COME AT WORSE TIME, IN VIEW OF FACT THAT JAPAN WAS STILL DIGGING OUT OF HEAVY DAMAGE DONE BY TYPHOONS PHYLLIS AND RITA (TYPHOONS 5 AND 6 IN JMA NOMENCLATURE). APPARENTLY, GENERAL PUBLIC IN JAPAN IS UNAWARE OF STORMFURY CONCEPT (NOTWITHSTANDING FACT THAT ARTICLES ON STORMFURY HAVE APPEARED SPORADICALLY IN NEWSPAPERS HERE DURING PAST FEW YEARS) AND JMA FEARS THAT IF GOJ INVOLVEMENT IN ANY WAY WITH STORMFURY BECOMES KNOWN EITHER THROUGH BILATERAL MEETING OR PARTICIPATION IN WMO IPAB DISCUSSIONS, JMA WILL BEAR BRUNT OF CRITICISM FROM PUBLIC MADE SENSITIVE BY RECENT CASUALTIES AND DAMAGE. INTERPRETER WAS ALSO TOLD IN AN ASIDE NOT MEANT FOR EMBOFF THAT THERE WAS LITTLE CHANCE THAT GOJ WOULD GO ALONG WITH USG PROPOSAL.

8. WITHOUG BEING UNDULY PESSIMISTIC,IT APPEARS TO EMBASSY THAT IPAB PROPOSAL IS IN FOR TOUGH SLEDDING WITH GOJ AND THAT CHANCES FOR FAVORABLE RESPONSE EVEN FROM MOHRI ARE SLIM. AS SOON AS RESPONSE IS RECEIVED, EMBASSY WILL INFORM
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